

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said curing step is performed at a temperature in the range of from about 70 to about 140°C.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said curing step requires conventional kiln drying using the normal temperature schedules for drying untreated, green lumber of the same size and species as the impregnated wood, with temperatures at the beginning of curing about 70°C and at the end about 80°C, with a final post-curing step between 100 to 120° for wood with maximum hardness and dryness.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said curing and drying can be accomplished using high-temperature kiln schedules in the 80 to 120° temperature range.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said curing is performed by submerging the impregnated wood in hot oil at 80 to 120°C, with the temperature either fixed or starting lower in the range and increasing as curing and drying proceeds.

REMARKS

In response to the requirement for restriction of the claims, applicants elect claims 8-12 for further prosecution in this application. Non-elected claims 1-7 and 13 have been cancelled to advance the prosecution of this application.

Claims 8-12 have been amended to more definitively claim applicant's invention and to place them in more traditional U.S. format.

Examination of claims 8-12 is requested.

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